

August 9, 2011

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on August 9, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE

Present: Commissioners Craft, Kraemer, Robelotto, Virobik and Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino

Absent: Commissioner Draper

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

MOTION: Commissioner Kraemer moved to approve the excused absence of Commissioner Draper; motion was seconded by Commissioner Virobik. The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Absent Commissioner Draper)

FLAG SALUTE

Christina Szczypkowski led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL

None

ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Craft moved and Commissioner Kraemer seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of August 9, 2011. The motion carried. (Absent Commissioner Draper)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that on page 1, under senior citizens concerns, paragraph 2, it should read Meta-Housing Corporation.

MOTION: Commissioner Robelotto moved and Commissioner Craft seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of July 12, 2011 as amended. The motion carried. (Absent Commissioner Draper)

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Dr. Bonnie Shannon, Educational Consultant and Crisis Intervention

Farrah Benedict, Home Instead

Pat Sako, Focal Point on Aging

Sergeant Jennifer Uyeda, Torrance Police Department Community Affairs

Christina Szczypkowski, Torrance Police Department Community Affairs

Officer Erik Eidet, Torrance Police Department

Vickie Hershberger, Torrance Memorial Medical Center

PRESENTATION – “RETURN HOME REGISTRY” PROGRAM

Sergeant Uyeda presented information on the Torrance Police Department's Return Home Registry program which was free to the public and designed to reunite families who had been separated from each other. She stated the program targeted both children and adults who suffered from conditions that made it difficult for them to find their way home or who had difficulty in communicating with others.

Sergeant Uyeda noted that family members could register their family members online and supply information and photographs to the Police Department, who in turn compiled the information into a Spillman database that Department could use to identify people who were lost or wandering. She added that the Torrance Police Department website was: www.police.torrance.ca.gov

Sergeant Uyeda reported that if personal information was on file in the registry, it was much easier to locate a lost person, either when the family notified the police that the person was missing or if officers had contact with a person who was lost or confused.

Sergeant Uyeda stated that the Police Department recommended to families, as an aid in the recovery process, that they mark the Spillman name number on the registrant's clothing and use the department issued id card.

Sergeant Uyeda stated that the program was only in Torrance and that the Spillman number was unique to Torrance. She reported that there were 150 registrants currently and that the system had been used successfully to return two people.

In response to a question from Bonnie Shannon, Sergeant Uyeda stated that the department had not informed the schools in the area, but had notified care facilities and children's facilities, using flyers, information packets and social media.

Officer Eidet stated that it was extremely helpful to have the photos in the system to help with an immediate identification.

Sergeant Uyeda noted that volunteers periodically called family members of the registrants in order to obtain updated information and photos. She added that the police department offered a free EM Finders bracelet with a GPS locator for Torrance registrants, which required an additional monthly service fee of \$25.

Officer Eidet reported that the department received 5 to 8 calls per month for missing persons, both children and elderly. Sergeant Uyeda stated that anyone could register for the program, not just Torrance residents, but others that might frequent Torrance places of business or restaurants.

Commissioner Virobik noted that Focal Point on Aging had the registry program listed in their directory and referred people to the Police department if they were interested.

In response to a question from Vickie Hershberger, Sergeant Uyeda stated that she would be willing to give a presentation for a caregiver support group at Torrance Memorial.

Sergeant Uyeda noted that there would be two more scam program presentations at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library on August 16 and in November.

Officer Eidet stated that he would be conducting the Partners in Policing class in November.

SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council Activities

Commissioner Kraemer noted that the City Council would introduce the exchange students from Kashiwa, Japan at the August 9 meeting.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the Library renewed their three year contract with a company to purchase books, magazines and videos. She noted that the library had no plans to purchase eBooks.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that it was possible to register online for the opening event in Torrance's Centennial celebration, "Lights, Camera, Action", for \$5.00. She added that the event would be held at Wilson Park and all registrants would receive a flashlight to take part in forming the message which would be photographed from above by helicopter or blimp.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that City was receiving more money per ton from their contracted recycling company, in addition to receiving few, if any penalties, for "dirty" recyclables.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that summer cooling centers were established at Katy Geissert Civic Center Library and Bartlett Senior Center.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the City had a month-to-month lease on a state-owned lot north of the courthouse which would be set up to use for sport fields, such as soccer and baseball.

B. Housing

Commissioner Robelotto distributed on an article about housing with high tech medical monitoring equipment that would allow people to remain in their homes instead of going to a nursing or assisted living facility. She reported on an article that stated that ping pong was shown to be helpful in staving off dementia.

Commissioner Virobik announced there were non subsidized rentals available in Coleman Court, starting at \$1010 for a one bedroom.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino reported that the City had hired a consultant to evaluate, with standardized criteria, the 7 bids for a mixed use affordable housing plan at 1640 Cabrillo Avenue. She noted that the City had acquired the property in 2009 using Low-Moderate Income Set-Aside funds. She added that the City would review the findings of the consultant and then proceed to the next step.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino presented the details of the housing plan and stated that there would be covenants to maintain the affordability of the units for 99 years. She stated that the plan would provide a mix of low and very low-income housing, based on the Los Angeles County AMI.

C. Health

Commissioner Robelotto reported on an online form for an Emergency Preparedness Tool for seniors and their caregivers which provided a format in which to list medications, dosages, doctors, pharmacies and insurance information.

Commissioner Robelotto discussed an article on methods and resources to use to hire a good caregiver.

Commissioner Viribok stated that Focal Point on Aging had check lists for a family member to use to hire a caregiver that would meet their needs.

Commissioner Virobik reported on an article indicating that the cost of Medicare Part D will decline slightly in 2012, due to in part to the use of generic drugs. She noted that there would be a 50% discounts on prescriptions for those who were in the doughnut hole and that

more than 17 million beneficiaries had taken advantage of preventative health screenings that were now available without a co-payment.

Farrah Benedict from Home Instead, noted that her company had 30 to 40 free Emergency Preparedness kits available and would deliver some to the Focal Point on Aging office.

Commissioner Kraemer announced that The Friends of the Torrance Library would sponsor an afternoon with Dr. Leslie R. Martin, co-author of *The Longevity Project*, on August 20 at 2:00 p.m. at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library.

Commissioner Kraemer reported on an article that stated that inactivity was seen as the biggest disease factor in the United States.

D. Transportation

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino reported that although the manufacturer of the Torrance hybrid buses was out of business, the Transit department had a five year warranty on the busses and had, to date, received replacement parts from the manufacturer.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino noted that the Transit Department had started to repaint the old buses to match the colors of the new hybrid buses and added that the project would continue if the Transit department was successful in obtaining funding from a federal capital grant.

Dr. Bonnie Shannon reported on problems in obtaining medical transportation information from Kaiser Permanente.

There was a discussion on the methods in which the public could obtain information about services in their community.

E. Community Programs

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand distributed information on the 19th Annual Health and Resource Fair presented by the Torrance Community Services Department and the Salvation Army Torrance Corps on September 17, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 4223 Emerald Street.

Commissioner Virobik noted that "Telemarketing and Internet Fraud", part of the *Seniors, Don't be Scammed* presentations would be on August 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that the Fall issue of Seasons had been mailed out.

F. Focal Point Program

Commissioner Virobik noted that she had submitted her annual report which was attached to the draft of the Commission's Annual report. She reported that there had been 1551 calls for assistance during the year.

Commissioner Virobik reported the following Focal Point statistics for the month of:

June 2011

Total number of documented calls: 40	Total number of callbacks: 27
Miscellaneous calls: 65	Total number of walk-ins: 15
Total number of calls received: 105	

Of the documented calls:

17.5% were in regard to transportation	65% were for housing
17.5% were for in home services	

Commissioner Virobik reported the following Focal Point statistics for the month of:

July 2011

Total number of documented calls: 44	Total number of callbacks: 4
Miscellaneous calls: 83	Total number of walk-ins: 33
Total number of calls received: 127	

Of the documented calls:

14% were in regard to transportation	52% were for housing
14% were for in home services	

Commissioner Virobik also reported that Focal Point did five presentations for senior groups.

Responding to a question from Farrah Benedict, of Home Instead, Commissioner Virobik stated that Focal Point on Aging used several different agencies and services, including the Torrance Home Improvement Program, to provide home adaptations/modifications and noted that the Torrance program had funding to assist low income people.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

None

ANNUAL REPORT

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that the Annual Report was for the period of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 and would be presented to the City Council, when approved.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino requested that the Commission email any changes to the draft report, so that the report could be ready to vote on at the next meeting.

Commissioner Virobik noted that on page 2, last paragraph, the date should be 2011, not 2010.

ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Robelotto noted that she would not be at the next meeting.

Farrah Benedict announced that Home Instead, with participation from the Stroke Association of Southern California and the Los Angeles Caregiver Resource Center was sponsoring a free five-day cruise for a deserving family caregiver and guest. She added that Home Instead would provide the respite care while the winner was on the cruise and that more information on the contest was on their website at:

<http://www.homeinstead.com/los-angeles-county/pages/caregivercruisegiveaway.aspx>

Responding to a question from Commissioner Virobik, Ms. Benedict stated that Home Instead had offered free respite care at a silent auction and would look into offering more in the future.

Vickie Hershberger distributed: information on a Miracle of Living lecture entitled "Finding the Sweet Spot in Blood Glucose Management" and an Open House Health Fair at Malaga Cove on September 10 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that in the second draft of the California Redistricting maps which was released on July 29, Torrance was split in half with Hawthorne Boulevard as the dividing line. She added that the final maps would be adopted on August 15, although there were many letters of opposition that had been filed with the redistricting Committee. Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that even if the maps were adopted, there still could be lawsuits filed later.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that there were also changes to the Los Angeles Supervisor districts and there was a possibility that Torrance would no longer be in Don Knabe's 4th District.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m. to the regular meeting on Tuesday, September 13, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

Approved as Submitted September 13, 2011 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
